

TO: The Honorable Joe Pitts

The Honorable Frank Pallone

Re: 21st Century Cures: Examining Ways to Combat Antibiotic Resistance and Foster New Drug Development

Dear Chairman Pitts and Ranking Member Pallone:

THE FLAG & GENERAL OFFICERS' NETWORK, Inc., an official 501.c.19 War Veterans Organization representing three quarters of all living U. S. Armed Forces Flag & General Officers (Guard, Reserve and Retired), now writes to thank you for your leadership in addressing the threat of antibiotic resistant bacteria by holding this hearing, entitled "Examining Ways to Combat Antibiotic Resistance and Foster New Drug Development".

As the Administration recognized today in their report and announcement of executive action, the threat of antibiotic resistance is real and growing. It is clear that we need to act now. Drug resistant bacteria are infecting our military, veterans and fellow citizens at an alarming rate and, in far too many cases, we do not have the drugs to treat them. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 2,000,000 infections with antibiotic-resistant bacteria occur each year in the United States and 23,000 Americans die as a result.

The military is at particular threat from these infections. It is unconscionable that American military men and women are being saved from their combat wounds on the battlefield only to become the victims of untreatable superbugs. More than a third of wounded warriors injured in Iraq and Afghanistan developed a bacterial or fungal infection. And, according to Pentagon data, about one in 10 military recruits gets a skin infection, which are often caused by resistant bacteria.

We strongly support H.R. 3742, the Antibiotic Development to Advance Patient Treatment Act of 2013 (ADAPT). The ADAPT Act will be critical to getting new antibiotics to patients with severe infections. It will direct the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to create a regulatory pathway for new antibiotics that treat serious and life threatening infections and are intended to be used in limited populations of people with few or no other treatment options. Because the drugs may be studied in smaller populations, clinical trials may be more feasible and development time may be shortened, potentially allowing patients faster access to these important treatments.

Too many of our shipmates and soldiers have died already because of untreatable superbugs. Without swift action more will meet the same fate.

We salute your efforts and leadership in addressing this important issue. We urge you to take action and to expedite the passage of H.R. 3742.

Please know you have our continued thanks for your efforts on behalf of America's veterans and their families.

Rear Admiral [Ret.] James J. Carey, National Chairman
THE FLAG & GENERAL OFFICERS' NETWORK
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In Continued Service To America!!!